

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 6 as follows:

The latching assembly 14 includes a backup battery 28. The backup battery 28 is [[operatively]] electrically connected to the electrical system 18. Should the electrical system 18 be severed such that the electric power source 16 is no longer able to power the latching assembly 14, the backup battery 28 can do so. The backup battery 28 is disposed adjacent the motor 26 within the latching assembly 14. The backup battery 28 is of a size sufficient to operate the latching assembly 14 allowing the motor 26 to unlatch the striker 22 to open the side door 12. It is contemplated that the backup battery 28 is also a 12 Volt battery. It should be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the size of the backup battery 28 would depend on, among other things, the operational requirements of the motor 26 and the force required to overcome the seal of the side door 12.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 4 as follows:

The latching assembly 14 also includes a microcontroller 38 which controls all of the elements set forth above. The microcontroller 38 controls the charger 36, monitors the backup battery 28, receives signals from a diagnostic module 40 regarding the condition of the capacitive element 30 and receives power through a filter regulator 42. The filter regulator 42 includes a regulator which provides the five volts necessary to operate the microcontroller 38. In addition, the microcontroller 38 receives inputs from several different sensors outside the latching assembly 14. In particular, the microcontroller 38 receives an input from an inside handle 44, an outside handle 46, a crash sensor 48, a key lock sensor 50, an inside lock switch 52, an outside lock switch 54 and the like. The microcontroller 38 also may receive communication through a communication line 56 and transmit information through a transmission line 58.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 31 as follows:

Turning attention to the top of the schematic, the filter regulator 42 is shown. The filter regulator 42 includes diodes 82, 84, three capacitors 86, 88, 90 and a regulator 92. The filter regulator 42 has an output at 93 which is electrically connected to an input 94. The microcontroller 38 also has various inputs, as was discussed above and are shown herein.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 4 as follows:

To maintain the backup battery 28, the micorcontroller 38 will monitor the backup battery 28 through a supervision channel ~~[[104]]~~ 106. If it is determined that the voltage is too low, the constant current battery charger 36 will charge the backup battery 28. In the examples shown, the backup battery 28 is a NiMH battery.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 26 as follows:

The DC/DC converter 34 will immediately begin to recharge the capacitors 70-76. In the event the capacitors 70-76 are discharged too deeply and take too long to recover voltage, the microcontroller 38 may reboot. Upon reboot, the microcontroller 38 will restart, look at the open switch ~~[[98]]~~ 100 and determine that the latch was successfully released. For subsequent releases, the microcontroller 38 will monitor the voltages of the capacitors 70-76. Any attempt to unlatch the latch assembly 14 again before the capacitors 70-76 are recharged to a minimum voltage for successful release will cause the release command to be noted and delayed slightly.